

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, January 26, 2015 in Room 161, UW Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI

---

**Present:** Chairman Dantine, Supervisor Bernie Erickson, Supervisor Landwehr,  
Supervisor Tom Sieber, Supervisor Dave Kaster, Dan DeGrave  
**Also Present:** Jim Jolly, Jon Bechle, Brent Peterson, Norb Vande Hei

---

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

Dantine introduced and welcomed Dan DeGrave, the committees new Citizen Rep/Member, to the Land Conservation Subcommittee.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 24, 2014.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to approve.**  
**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Comments from the Public** None.

**1. Monthly Budget update (November 2014).**

Jolly informed that they were still operating in the black. They purchased two brand new vehicles; they had \$20,000 a piece on the vehicles and got them for \$20,000 which worked out perfect. Even with the purchases, they were still going to be in the black.

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file.**  
**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Budget Adjustment Request (14-105): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

The Land and Water Conservation Department received an additional \$150,000 award through the NRDA program to continue work within the West Shore Pike Project area through 2016. This award dictates that funds must be allocated towards staff salary/fringe and landowner payments.

**Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve.**  
**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Certificate of Appreciation – Norb VandeHei.**

Chairman Dantine, on behalf of the Brown County Land Conservation Committee and staff, awarded Norb VandeHei a certificate of appreciation for his 8 years of dedication and service to Brown County.

**Motion made by Supervisor, seconded by Supervisor to.**  
**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Demo Farm Update.**

Jolly informed that there was a request for an update to be brought forward quarterly. Project Manager Brent Peterson was present to give an update and spoke to the information provided in the agenda packet:

Project Overview: Four landowners were recruited to participate in the Demo Farm Network, each of the participants committed 200 acres to implementing innovative agronomic practices through the 5-year project. They were looking for producers that were prosperous and very active and ahead of the curve.

Project Updates: Veris Testing was conducted on 3 of the 4 demo farm sites. Growers, consultants, and suppliers are using Veris soil EC sensors to devise management zones, set soil sampling locations, create variable rate seeding prescriptions, better manage nitrogen applications, and improve irrigation prescriptions. Soil EC is soil electrical conductivity – a measurement of how much electrical current soil can conduct. It's an effective way to map soil texture because smaller soil particles, such as clay, conduct more current than larger silt and sand particles.

Each individual Farm Site Updates and photos were provided in the packet and spoken to.

Jolly added that one of the things they were trying to work with the farmers to shorten up the corn varieties that they were planting. If they could go from 100 day corn to 92 corn, they had those eight days and gave them a better opportunity to get things happening in the fall if they needed to do it that way. There were a lot of wheels in motion with this project and they were experimenting and trying to get a system down for each farm. Once they got the systems down, it could be replicated throughout the basin. Peterson informed that dropping those days was not as critical as it used to be years ago, the varieties had come a long way. Part of the issues they had with some of the corn, they had a very difficult time of drying the corn. It cost them big time dollars. It was critical because they could move up their manure applications probably by two weeks earlier to get things done that they hadn't been able to get done on the ground. Plus their cover crop went in two weeks earlier as well which was very critical on getting it established.

Sieber questioned how they killed the cover crop. Peterson informed that it took Roundup or another product. Peterson informed that he had attended a no-til conference in Cincinnati Ohio and ideally they would like to plant right into the living green material and then come back and kill it off. The living material fed sugars down into the root zone for a nutrient exchange, it would help their infiltration.

5. Jolly informed that the purpose of the demo was to prove that these changes could happen, still be cost effective and still produce the same level of yields that they always produced in a little different fashion and different management.

Erickson questioned if Glacierland was working on the project. Peterson informed that they had them tied in with a project, focusing on the phosphorus issue. They were trying to work with other entities along the way. They were not a big player in this.

**Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Sieber to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. **2014 Department Annual Report and Accomplishments.**

Referring to the Annual Accomplishment Report located in the agenda packet, Jolly informed that they had a great year and went through and highlighted items. The report contained info regarding the Working Lands Initiative, Great Lakes Demonstration Farms Network, Animal Waste Management Ordinance, 9-Key Element Watershed Plan-Upper East River Watershed, Multi-County conservation practice tracking system, Wildlife Damage Program, West Shore, Fox P Trade, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan Lower Fox River, Annual Tree Program, Agriculture Non-point Performance Fee (\$.50 per acre), Non-Metallic Mining, Groundwater Protection, Winter Spreading Plans, Brown County Community Digester Feasibility Study and Silver Creek Watershed Project.

With regard to the BC Community Digester, Landwehr stated that he had been hearing about problems Dane County had with theirs. He assumed that would have a dramatic effect on these projects. Jolly responded that with that particular project, neither the technology nor the business plan would fit. They were well aware of what was going on in Dane County but it was not the kind of technology that would come to fruition here when they get all things said and done. It would be a combination of technologies that would have to be applied to this problem. Landwehr asked that they go slow on this. Jolly responded absolutely, it will be well studied. Erickson believed digester was a word for lack of any other words and when the RFP or RFI came out, they will be getting a lot of cutting edge technology but they will have to get some type of proven technology. They didn't know what the technology would be at this point but they were hoping it came out where it was workable.

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. **Department Openings summary.**

*No vacancies at this time, no action needed.*

Jolly informed that they had received a grant Friday night, they were working with a non-profit group in the valley that had coordinated a lot of their projects and their work with industries along the river. They had applied for a \$4M+ grant for doing work in the Wrightstown area, Plumb Creek. They got the grant and with all of the other contributions from everyone else, it came to over \$5M. Brown County will get one staff out of this for five years to do work down there. They will be coordinating this with Calumet and Outagamie Counties. Jolly will be coming at some point for a budget adjustment.

**8. Letters of support NRCS and DNR.**

Referring to the letter in the packet, Jolly informed that this showed their staff was doing a great job. The state and federal governments came forward to state that it had been better than it had ever been with cooperation, etc.

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Dan DeGrave to receive and place on file.  
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Directors Report.**

*No report, no action needed.*

**Other**

**10. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

**11. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein  
Recording Secretary